

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE MORNINGSIDES ASSOCIATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the families of the Morningside community and the City of Milford in marking the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Morningside Association—a very special milestone for this unique organization. Chartered by the Connecticut state legislature in 1921, the Morningside Association created a tight-knit, welcoming community where families have flourished for generations.

Nestled along the shores of Long Island Sound, the Morningside property has had a rich history. The parcel was included in the original land purchase from the Pausgusset Tribe and for the first several hundred years was known as “Merwin’s Farm” at Pond Point and was both a working farm and home to sixteen generations of the Merwin family. In the mid-1860’s, the land was purchased by New England industrialist Henry G. Thompson. Mr. Thompson built a manor house of twenty-two rooms, surrounded by wide expanses of lawn, rare, beautiful trees and elaborate flower gardens. The “Morningside” moniker was quickly given to his new home by Mr. Thompson because it faced the rising sun. In 1912 the property was offered for sale. Specialists in developing small residential communities, the owners of the Yale Land Company, Milton T. Yale and two sons, Fred and Will, recognized an ideal opportunity for a shorefront development. After dividing the land into building lots, they laid out and constructed Morningside Drive on the shore front and Ridgewood Drive bordering the woodland, with nine roads running due west to connect these drives and provide settings for homes.

By 1921 the majority of the lots had been sold and the Yale Land Company had gradually withdrawn its policy of active maintenance. It was then that the Morningside property owners decided to form an association and seek a charter from the state which would enable them to preserve the unique character of the Morningside neighborhood. They successfully lobbied the state legislature for the charter, designating the community as an improvement district. Over the course of the last century the Morningside Association has guided the community through a multitude of challenges including the transition from a summer to year-round residential community, the installation of a private storm drain and sewer line system, and the expansion of the community’s borders. The Association has also worked closely with the City of Milford, particularly with the installation and maintenance of the Morningside revetment—a granite wall made necessary due to the damage and erosion caused by hurricanes that hit the area in the early half of the 20th century.

Beyond the physical maintenance of the property, the Association is also responsible for the special sense of community that is Morningside. From the annual July 4th celebration to the shared enjoyment of the water and nature, the Association makes every effort to ensure that the families who call Morningside home are proud to do so. I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Morningside Association, past and present, who have and continue to work so diligently to create and enrich such a vibrant community. My heartfelt congratulations to them as they mark their centennial anniversary. As we say in Italian—C’ent Anni—to another hundred years.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM RUSSELL III

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major William Russell III, the outgoing Brigade Command Sergeant Major of the 177th Military Police Brigade. His service to our community and to our Nation are worthy of commendation.

Born in Madison Heights, Michigan, he enlisted in the United States Army on May 16, 1989. During his time on active duty, he served Wheeled Vehicle Operator for ten years. After serving his duty, Command Sergeant Major Russell’s service to our country was not yet done. He enlisted in the Michigan Army National Guard immediately after serving on active duty, serving with the 210th Military Police Company as a Section Sergeant.

His previous assignments with the Michigan Army National Guard include, Platoon Sergeant 1461st CBT HET Company, First Sergeant 1072nd Maintenance Company, Command Sergeant Major 1225th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Command Sergeant Major 272nd Regional Support Group, Command Sergeant Major/Commandant 177th Regional Training Institute, Command Sergeant Major 177th Military Police Brigade, State Command Sergeant Major and Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Michigan National Guard. He has earned many awards for his exemplary service, including the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

In the numerous roles that he has served and a military career that has spanned decades, Command Sergeant Major Russell has proven his tremendous commitment and dedication to service. A tried and true leader, he heard the call and has served this entire Nation well.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Command Sergeant Major William Russell III for his lifetime of invaluable service to this Nation. I join with Command

Sergeant Major Russell’s family—including his children DeSeandra, Alfonzo, and William—friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his exemplary and honorable service to this country.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JOHN LEE DICKINSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life John Lee Dickinson of Mantachie, Mississippi who passed away on January 7, 2021 at North Mississippi Medical Center. I join countless friends, family, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Born February 4, 1947 in Marietta, Mississippi to Fisher and Jewel Lindsey Dickinson, John Lee grew to be a star athlete. He graduated from Mantachie High School and married his sweetheart Joyce Ann Franks in 1966. For 40 years he worked at the Tombigbee Electric Power Association and retired as the Fulton Branch Manager in 2009. He served in the United States Army National Guard, where he was awarded sharpshooter medals and other honors. He passed on his love of athletics, hunting, fishing and farming to his four children.

John Lee was an athlete and a scholar. He deeply enjoyed literature and poetry and was a gifted painter. He played four instruments and taught himself Spanish. John Lee was a dedicated grandfather, spending hours at the pool with his family and beloved dogs, Luke and Mandy.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 54 years, Joyce Ann Franks Dickinson; children Chris, Angie, Brian, and Jason; best friend, Barry; and many grandchildren.

John Lee Dickinson was a great man dedicated to family, faith, and country. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL PROGRAMS FOR THEIR 2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Elizabeth High School Softball & Baseball Programs on being inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

St. Elizabeth High School fielded its first softball and baseball programs in 1951. Since 1991, they have combined to reach 15 Final

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Fours, including winning seven state championships, and each has had 38 All-State selections. St. Elizabeth's softball program has won four state titles (1992, 1994, 2002, 2011), finished as a runner-up in 1993 and 1997, and was fourth in 1991. St. Elizabeth's baseball program has captured three state championships (1995, 1997, 2019) and was runner-up in 2018. The Hornets also placed third in 1996 while their 1984, 2010 and 2011 teams each placed fourth in the state.

As a native of St. Elizabeth this honor is especially personal for me. I graduated from St. Elizabeth but more importantly, my wife Jackie and I have watched generations of kids grow into young adults and go on to become exceptional members of our community and communities around Missouri. Both of our daughters played on the softball team and our son played on the baseball team where they and their teammates learned invaluable life lessons about hard work, commitment, and teamwork.

Thanks to the coaches, teachers, and administrators we have been lucky enough to have over the years, our little town has experienced success well beyond the ball field. This honor is certainly a testament to all of the kids who worked so hard to achieve athletic success but also to the parents and a community that supports one another and always prioritized our future generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the St. Elizabeth High School Softball and Baseball Programs on multiple extraordinary seasons and their much-deserved Hall of Fame induction.

RYAN WILLIAM MAGEE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan William Magee. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 228, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ryan has held the positions of Patrol Leader, Quartermaster and Senior Patrol Leader for his troop. He is a member of both Mic-o-say Tribes, where he is a Hardaway Warrior at Camp Geiger and a Brave at Bartle. Ryan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ryan's Eagle project was renovating the Community of Christ Church flag plaza at Camp Farwesta campgrounds in Stewartsville, MO. He removed the single flagpole and replaced it with three new flagpoles, installed a border and added pea gravel. The added flagpoles allow flags to be flown that represent the different organizations that use the campgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan William Magee for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7).

I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation which seeks to end the wage gap once and for all. Women in America, especially women of color, make far less than their male counterparts. While we have made progress closing this gap in recent years, this past year has the potential to set this movement back by decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women. Unstable childcare and disruptions to school schedules have forced millions of mothers to leave the workforce. Additionally, women disproportionately work lower wage hourly jobs that have been slashed across the country due to store closings and other pandemic-related restrictions. This has resulted in women suffering the majority of pandemic-related job losses. Women also hold a greater share of frontline essential jobs that have faced greater risks of exposure such as nurses, teachers, home health care providers, flight attendants, transportation workers, grocery store clerks, childcare providers, and countless other positions. Simply put, we are getting through this pandemic and are on the brink of beating COVID-19 because of the tireless work of American women—and they deserve tangible support.

On Equal Pay Day earlier this year, I led a joint statement with Congresswoman GRACE MENG, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, and 32 other Democratic women in Congress highlighting the disproportionate effect COVID-19 has had on women and calling for structured relief. Therefore, I would like to include in the RECORD that statement.

Again, I rise in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7) and I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

MARCH 24, 2021.

Today is Equal Pay Day, the day in 2021 where women's earnings finally caught up to what men earned in 2020. While strides had been made to close this earnings gap, this past year has the potential of erasing years of progress because of the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women.

The pandemic has dealt an unprecedented blow to every aspect of American society, taking more than half a million lives and costing our economy trillions of dollars. Our nation is facing multiple crises: the COVID-19 virus, economic uncertainty, and a caregiving shortage. As such, while the pandemic has caused virtually every American to struggle in some fashion, the brunt of this disaster has been felt by women—especially women of color.

Due to unstable child care and disruptions to school schedules, millions of mothers have been forced to leave the workforce to care for a child. Roughly 10 million working mothers have a child age 6 or younger, and many of these women have been forced to leave their jobs to care for their children.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 865,000 women left the labor force in September 2020 alone—more than four times the number of men who left the labor force that month.

Women are being forced out of the workforce for other reasons as well. Women disproportionately work lower wage hourly jobs that have been slashed across the country due to store closings and other pandemic-related restrictions. This has resulted in women suffering the majority of pandemic-related job losses, totaling more than 5.4 million net jobs, or 55 percent of the overall net job loss since the start of the crisis. This is especially true for Black, Latina, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Native American women who are significantly more likely to work hourly jobs that have either been eliminated or have had their hours greatly reduced over the last year.

Even women who have maintained their job during this crisis have disproportionately been affected. Women hold a greater share of frontline essential jobs that have faced greater risks of exposure, such as nurses, teachers, home health care providers, flight attendants, transportation workers, grocery store clerks, child care providers, and countless other positions. Simply put, we are getting through this pandemic and are on the brink of beating COVID-19 because of the tireless work of American women—and they deserve tangible support.

While we are encouraged by the passage of the American Rescue Plan and strongly support the provisions that help protect working women, we also encourage our colleagues to consider this package as a down payment. We need transformational structural change to fight against the economic, financial, gender, and racial injustices. We need massive investments in our child care infrastructure, including universal child care and early learning, \$15 minimum wage, and paid leave programs; without these, women will be set back a generation by this pandemic.

For decades, women have unionized and joined forces to fight for fair hiring practices, workplace protections, and our ongoing fight for equal pay. We simply cannot turn this clock back and we must continue to protect our right to organize and in doing so, fight to narrow the income gap. It will take all of us to dedicate the needed energy and resources to ensure that our daughters and granddaughters do not need to acknowledge Equal Pay Day in future years to come.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Grace Meng, Brenda Lawrence, Barbara Lee, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chrissy Houlahan, Angie Craig, Sara Jacobs, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Marcy Kaptur, Nikema Williams, Gwen Moore, Carolyn Bourdeaux, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Grace F. Napolitano, Dina Titus, Robin L. Kelly, Katie Porter, Jackie Speier, Nanette Diaz Barragan, Rosa L. DeLauro, Marie Newman, Debbie Dingell, Judy Chu, Rosa L. DeLauro, Doris Matsui, Cori Bush, Nydia M. Velázquez, Pramila Jayapal, Jahana Hayes, Ilhan Omar, Linda T. Sánchez, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Jan Schakowsky, Lauren Underwood, Members of Congress.

NAVALNY RESOLUTION INTRODUCTION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bipartisan resolution condemning

the Kremlin's brutal treatment of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

I am thankful to Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK for co-leading this resolution with me. I am also thankful to Chairman MEEKS, Europe Subcommittee Chairman KEATING, Ranking Member MCCAUL, Congressman QUIGLEY, Congressman PFLUGER, and Congressman MEIER for their leadership, support, and original cosponsorship on this measure.

Mr. Navalny has been a leader in uncovering gross corruption at the highest levels of the Kremlin that sustain that country's brutal regime. Through new forms of social media, his ability to reach out to and organize Russian citizens has been admirable.

Tragically on August 20, 2020, Vladimir Putin's thugs poisoned Mr. Navalny with the nerve agent, Novichok that nearly ended his life.

After making a recovery in Germany, Mr. Navalny bravely returned to Russia where he was detained and transferred to a modern-day gulag where he faced torture.

To protest these despicable conditions, he has been on a hunger strike for close to three weeks, and is now in critical condition.

Russia has a deeply disturbing history of violence and assassinations to silence dissidents like Boris Nemtsov, Sergei Magnitsky, Alexander Litvinenko and many more.

In response, this resolution strongly condemns the Kremlin's gross mistreatment of Mr. Navalny, calls for him to receive adequate medical care, and urges the Biden Administration to take all appropriate actions to secure his release, including through increased sanctions.

Additionally, the resolution expresses gratitude for the critical work of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in shining a light on these issues, and urges the State Department to take greater action to protect the broadcaster's physical presence in Moscow in face of the Kremlin's disturbing attacks on it.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REBUILDING AMERICA'S AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021. This legislation makes a long-overdue update to the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) by increasing the maximum-allowable PFC by just \$1.00/year, starting in 2023, for four years and then indexes the fee to inflation every year thereafter. This increase to \$8.50 by 2026 would restore the value of the PFC to when it was last increased in 2000.

Airports are an essential part of American infrastructure and economic competitiveness, supporting \$1.4 trillion in annual economic output and 11.5 million jobs. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated airports' finances with a combination of lower passenger levels and a higher demand for health infrastructure improvements to keep the flying public safe. These challenges come on top of a 5-year

\$115 billion infrastructure backlog that is a result of the federal government's failure to modernize one of the main funding mechanisms for airports: the PFC.

The PFC a locally imposed, per-passenger user fee that improves capacity and allows for airport updates, reduces noise, or increases competition among airlines. PFC revenues complement grants from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for eligible capital projects. But under current law, the maximum PFC amount airports can collect is capped at \$4.50 per passenger per flight segment. Congress last adjusted the PFC to \$4.50 in 2000, but with inflation and the rising cost of construction the purchasing power of the PFC has declined 40 percent. As a result, many aging airports have reached their debt capacity and either cannot finance new projects or have had to stretch them over a longer timeframe, increasing the costs and delaying the benefits for passengers.

Modernizing the PFC would raise tens of billions of dollars for airport infrastructure improvements while requiring zero taxpayer dollars, not increasing the national debt, and adding billions of dollars to U.S. Gross Domestic Product. The Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure Act will ensure that airports are safe, economically competitive, and the envy of the world.

REMEMBERING JAMES L. NEWBROUGH, SR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James L. Newbrough, Sr., of Niles, Ohio, who passed away on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at the age of 83.

Mr. Newbrough was born February 17, 1938 in Brownsville, Pennsylvania the son of Lester and Mabel Clemmer Newbrough. He was a 1956 graduate of Centerville High School and was employed as a field engineer and tool repairman at Republic Steel in Warren for 30 years, retiring in 1986.

Jim was a member of First United Methodist Church in Niles, ITAM No. 39 in Girard, Sincerity Masonic Lodge in Niles, and member and past president of the Niles Men's Democratic Club. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steeler fan, enjoyed golfing, bowling, bocce, working on his lawn, spending time with his grandchildren, and was a United States Army Veteran.

Mr. Newbrough will be deeply missed by his wife Jenny Crockett Newbrough whom he married June 14, 1958, four sons, James L. Newbrough Jr. and his wife Becky of Niles, Mark A. Newbrough of Mineral Ridge, Gary E. Newbrough of Niles, and Attorney Kelly Stuart Newbrough and his wife Teresa of Niles, seven grandchildren, James L. Newbrough III and his wife Kristin, Eric Newbrough and his wife Erin, Kevin Kompanik (Rox), Alex Newbrough, Hannah Newbrough (Jason Ray), Jacob "Jack" Newbrough, Olivia Newbrough, and five great-grandchildren, Ella, Evan, Lexington, Mariah, and Kora.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Gary E. "Duke" Newbrough II, a granddaughter Sarah Lynn Newbrough, three broth-

ers, John, Steve, and Richard Newbrough, and two sisters, Julie Myers and Mary Jane Henck.

I was very proud to call James a great friend and supporter. My deepest condolences go out to Jim's entire family and to all whose lives he touched.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. WALTER F. MONDALE, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Honorable Walter F. Mondale, former Vice President of the United States of America, upon his death this week at age 93. Vice President Mondale was a global statesman, a national political leader, a remarkable legislator, a proud Minnesotan, a devoted husband, a wonderful father and grandfather, and a person people from all walks of life admired.

Growing up in Elmore, Minnesota, Mondale never forgot his small-town roots. Generations of Minnesotans hold him in deep affection, because of his unique ability to connect through his humor, humility and humanity—which was nurtured by his beloved wife Joan. Together from their marriage in 1955 until her death in 2014, Walter and Joan were a team who represented Minnesota and our country with grace, class and dignity.

Inspired and reinforced by Joan, Walter Mondale's life in public service was extraordinary. He served in the United States Army, was the Minnesota Attorney General, and represented Minnesota in the United States Senate. One of his most important roles was redefining the Vice Presidency of the United States as a partnership with the President. He also earned the 1984 Democratic nomination for President and broke a barrier by naming Geraldine Ferraro to be the first woman Vice Presidential candidate on a major party ticket. And while serving as Ambassador to Japan, Walter and Joan demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the power of American diplomacy.

Vice President Mondale's deep and abiding dedication to civil rights, children, health care and the environment have left a profound legacy for current and future generations of Americans. His pioneering leadership in protecting our air, land and water reflected his understanding that our precious lands and waters are the heart of who we are as Minnesotans and Americans, and that requires us to be responsible stewards of our planet.

His authorship of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 was a watershed moment in the environmental movement, bringing much-needed attention to these beautiful but threatened rivers across the country, including the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He was also among the first and most steadfast champions for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, because he understood that our biodiversity and clean water require permanent protection.

I am deeply grateful for Vice President Mondale's kind and wise counsel to me in Congress as I have worked to build on the success of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the

Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, to ensure we are protecting our air, land and water for our children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the life of this extraordinary leader, and in extending sincerest condolences to the Mondale family. Minnesota and the United States was blessed to have Walter F. Mondale provide us with a lifetime of service.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act, or the SAFE Banking Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. I want to thank my friend Congressman PERLMUTTER as well as Chairwoman WATERS and Chairman NADLER for their leadership on this issue.

This bill creates protections for financial institutions to be able to provide financial services to state-legal cannabis businesses and ancillary businesses. This would allow these businesses to access the banking system instead of relying on cash transactions.

Marijuana is currently legal in 36 states, 4 territories and the District of Columbia for medicinal or recreational use. This is an important issue as financial institutions prohibit dealing with cannabis businesses because of its current Schedule I, federal status. We need to ensure that these legitimate businesses have access to banking services as more states have medicinal and adult use cannabis programs. Many of these businesses are operating as cash only, which has created many issues for business owners and employees and has led to safety concerns for our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this and other marijuana related issues as they relate to racial and economic inequality. The SAFE Banking Act helps provide a solution to this financial issue, but we must not forget the larger systemic injustice of cannabis prohibition, which has disproportionately impacted Black and brown communities through the war on drugs. We must work together to end federal cannabis prohibition and to pass the MORE Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FLOYD LITTLE

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of legendary Syracuse University Football Player and treasured member of the Syracuse community, Mr. Floyd Little, who passed away on January 1, 2021.

Floyd Little played for the Syracuse Orange Football Team from 1964 to 1966 and donned the number 44. This iconic jersey number was assigned to some of the most accomplished

Syracuse University running backs including Jim Brown and Ernie Davis. Like these legendary athletes, Little achieved great success during his college playing career, earning three All-American Titles and was later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

After leaving Syracuse, Little was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the 1967 and quickly emerged as a star in the National Football League (NFL). In his nine seasons in the league, Little was selected to five Pro-Bowls, amassed over 12,000 all-purpose yards, was the league's rushing leader in 1971, and was later inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2010.

Outside of football, Floyd Little was a compassionate and kind-hearted man who dedicated much of his life to community service. He leveraged his success to give back to others and empower his neighbors. Little became a distinguished speaker for charities and fundraisers across the country and frequently donated his time to numerous philanthropic endeavors. He was particularly proud to support the annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund fundraiser, which raises money to fight childhood cancer, and worked extensively with the Walter Camp Football Foundation, which provides athletic opportunities to youth across the country. Like his success in football, Little earned countless accolades in recognition of his generosity and commitment to serving others. Little and his family returned to the Central New York region in 2011 out of a desire to serve his alma mater and the community he loved. Central New York has undoubtedly benefitted from his presence over the past decade, and we all join his friends and family in mourning this loss.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Mr. Floyd Little. Little's athletic legacy is one that is permanently cemented in record-books and Syracuse culture, and his crowning achievements will live on for generations to come. More importantly, however, Little will be remembered as an incredibly generous man who lived his life in service to others. His charitable work remains in the hearts of the thousands of people he helped throughout his life, and he will be remembered as a towering figure who came to be admired wherever he went.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH "JOE" R. MERLO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joseph "Joe" R. Merlo, who passed away on December 22, 2020.

Joe was born on June 8, 1945 and was beloved by many people in my community. He was a husband, father, uncle, great uncle, grandfather, great grandfather, cousin, and friend.

Like many who grew up in Niles, Ohio, Joe was a legend. If you didn't get your haircut by Joe at some point in your life, then you weren't really a resident of Niles.

I will always remember Joe for providing me with sage advice early in my political career. Anyone that knew Joe knew he was always fun to be around and was a true Northeast Ohioan.

My deepest sympathies go out to Joe's family and to all whose lives he touched.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONNECTICUT'S OMICRON CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the members of Connecticut's Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this very special organization.

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society is a unique organization whose membership includes tens of thousands of women educators from across the globe. Members focus on promoting their professional and personal growth—striving for excellence in education and dedicating themselves to making a difference in their students' lives, in their communities, and in the world. Over the course of the last fifty years, the members of Connecticut's Omicron Chapter have done just that.

One of sixteen chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma in the state, members of the Omicron Chapter live or work throughout the Naugatuck Valley. They have made it their mission to provide unique programs to the communities of the Valley that blend education and service. They have distributed books to newborns, young children, children of prisoners, and adult education students. Many of their members have knitted afghans and hats for both babies and cancer patients. They have helped to raise funds for UN-sponsored charities, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Umbrella, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

Perhaps most inspiring are Omicron's efforts on behalf of the next generations of educators. They understand the importance of nurturing those that will follow them in their professional pursuits. The Omicron chapter has sponsored the tuition for more than one-hundred fifty young women to attend Laurel Girls State, a one-week program rooted in civic education where they learn about how state and local government functions through a hands-on approach with state and local officials guiding the way. In addition, they also sponsor annual college scholarships to high school students planning to pursue careers in education.

From dedicating their professional careers to providing our young people with the strongest of foundations on which to build their future success to developing, implementing, and supporting programs that enrich the education of children outside the classroom, the Omicron chapter and its members have left an indelible mark on countless lives. I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to Connecticut's Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. As we say in Italian—C'ent Anni—to another one hundred years.

CONGRATULATING JOINT STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES ON COMPLETION OF THE VETERAN INSTITUTE OF PROCUREMENT

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joint Strategic Technologies, (JST) on their success of completion of the Veteran Institute for Procurement with gratitude and appreciation for their service to our country and with best wishes for continued success. I thank them for proudly representing our great State and showing the rest of the world our talents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H. Res. 130, Roll Call No. 121.

TRIBUTE TO LYNETTE BRYANT FRYAR

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a dedicated public servant, Lynette Bryant Fryar. A victim's Advocate at the Colleton County Sheriff's Department and former Chair of the Colleton County Election Commission, Ms. Fryar passed away on April 16, 2021. Her passing has left a huge void in the community.

Ms. Fryar was born in 1949 to Leon Bryant, Sr., and Pattie Mae Gruber Bryant. She graduated as the valedictorian from Ruffin High School in Colleton County, and went on to earn a degree in Secretarial Science from Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College.

She spent 36 years working for Clemson University at the Cooperative Extension Service in Colleton County. There she worked with youth development and outreach, using her care and concern for her community to build educational opportunities. She was awarded Clemson University's Outstanding Service Award for her exemplary work.

Following her retirement from the university, she chose not to slow down, but ramp up her community engagement. She spent three years working for AmeriCorps before becoming a Victims' Advocate at the Colleton County Sheriff's Department. There she continued doing what she did best, serving as a source of strength for those in need.

Ms. Fryar was very active politically. She joined the Colleton County Elections and Voter Registration Board in 2005 and served as its Chair. She continued to serve on the elections board until her death to ensure that all residents of Colleton County had access to the ballot box.

Ms. Fryar had an incredible ability to connect with people and was my MVP (most valuable proponent) in Colleton county. She believed strongly, just as I do, that we must all find something to do for which we are not paid. Her volunteer efforts were extensive, and all were focused on serving her beloved Colleton County. Her commitment to the community includes serving as a member of the S.C. Department of Education Personal Pathways Committee, the Keep Colleton Beautiful Committee, the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Futures Task Force Committee, the Lowcountry Food Bank Board, and many other boards and commissions. She was the former Director for Youth Leadership Colleton and the former Coordinator for Backpack Buddies in Colleton County. She held leadership offices with the Colleton County Branch of the NAACP, Colleton County Improvement Collaborative, the HCA Hospital Board of Trustees, the Colleton County School Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society (Colleton County), the American Cancer Society Rehabilitation Committee (Colleton County), and the South Carolina Association of Cooperative Extension Secretaries.

Ms. Fryar remained dedicated to her alma mater and served as the liaison for Ruffin High School and the Colleton County Vocational Center. She also served on the Colleton County Transition Committee for the merger of Ruffin High School and Walterboro High School. She was also devoted to her church and served as several capacities including as a minister to the congregation.

She was married to David L. Fryar, and they are the parents of three daughters, Katrina Fryar of Columbia, South Carolina, Ronda Cropp (Jeffrey) of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Muriel Fryar of Atlanta, Georgia. She also had two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Lynette Fryar. Her passion for Colleton County's people and places was unparalleled and her impact on her community will endure forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EL DORADO SPRINGS PATRIOT PARKWAY

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the community project of Patriot Parkway in El Dorado Springs, Missouri, which will be the adornment of 48 American flags along U.S. Highway 54 within city limits.

In a time of division, the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and members of the community have come together in an act of patriotism and unity. These flags will be displayed every year from Memorial Day to Veterans Day to commemorate our veterans and to show some American pride.

This project was a vision years ago by Jack Tough, a dedicated member of his community who unfortunately passed before he could see it through. However, his dream came true by the efforts of his son, Jackson Tough, and his

fellow members of the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, who raised funds in the community to bring Patriot Parkway to life.

Please join me in celebrating this act of patriotism and community pride.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

AMERICAN TRADE ASSOCIATION
FOR CANNABIS AND HEMP,
April 19, 2021.

Re Support For SAFE Banking Act Legislation.

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
Senate Majority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
House Minority Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SENATE MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER PELOSI, AND HOUSE MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: We write to you today in support of the SAFE Banking Act, legislation that will permit banks to provide services to state regulated marijuana businesses, employees, and ancillary businesses.

Unfortunately, under current federal law and regulations, state licensed and compliant cannabis businesses are unable to access banking services and are forced to operate primarily in cash. This creates an unnecessary risk to public safety for store operators, employees, and customers.

As we continue to see more states and territories move forward with the regulation of some form of adult-use marijuana, medical marijuana, or hemp derived CBD, it is essential to address the crisis the industry faces to access banking.

The threats faced by financial institutions of potential criminal prosecution for working with marijuana businesses as a result of the Controlled Substances Act are unacceptable and outdated.

We strongly support the passage of the SAFE Banking Act and it is our hope that Congress will act swiftly.

Sincerely,

American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp, Missouri Medical Cannabis, Georgia Cannabis Trade Association, Washington Cannabis Business Association, Alaska Marijuana Industry Association, MTCIA.

New Jersey Cannabis Trade Association, PCC, MICIA, Colorado Leads, HICIA, Southern California Coalition.

Maryland Wholesale Medical Cannabis Trade Association, Commonwealth Dispensary Association, DC Cannabis Trade Association, Cannabiz, Nevada Dispensary Association.

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the American Bankers Association (ABA), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (SAFE Banking Act) of 2021 introduced by Representatives Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Steve Stivers (R-OH), Warren Davidson (R-OH), Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) and over 150 bipartisan cosponsors.

This legislation, scheduled for consideration on this week's suspension calendar, addresses the conflict between federal and state law and whether banks can serve cannabis and cannabis related businesses. This issue has become a challenge for so many of our nation's communities and the banks that serve them. We were pleased to see this legislation passed the House of Representatives last Congress with over 300 bipartisan votes. With more states legalizing some form of cannabis use, we are hopeful that H.R. 1996 will once again receive a favorable and strong bipartisan vote.

Since 1996, voters across the country have determined that it is appropriate to allow their citizens to use cannabis for medical purposes and, since 2012, for adult use. Currently, 36 states have legalized cannabis for medical or adult use and that number continues to grow. Nevertheless, current federal law prevents banks from safely banking cannabis businesses, as well as the ancillary businesses that provide them with goods and services.

As a result, a majority of states are struggling to address the significant challenges to public safety, as well as regulatory and tax compliance that go hand-in-hand with businesses forced to operate in an all-cash environment. Providing a mechanism for the cannabis industry to access the banking system would help those communities reduce cash-motivated crimes, increase the efficiency of tax collections, and improve the financial transparency of the cannabis industry. Since bank accounts are monitored in accordance with existing anti-money laundering and Bank Secrecy Act requirements, bringing cannabis-related legitimate businesses into the mainstream banking sector would also help law enforcement to identify suspicious transactions—an opportunity that is not available in an all-cash environment.

ABA does not take a position on the legalization of cannabis. Nevertheless, our member banks find themselves in a difficult situation due to the conflict between state and federal law, with local communities encouraging them to bank cannabis businesses and federal law prohibiting it. Congress must act to resolve this conflict between state and federal law.

The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §801 et seq.) classifies cannabis as an illegal drug and prohibits its use for any purpose. For banks, that means that all proceeds gen-

erated by a cannabis-related business, even when it is operating in compliance with state law, are unlawful proceeds under federal law, and so any attempt to conduct a financial transaction with that money (including simply accepting a deposit) can be considered money-laundering. All banks, whether state or federally chartered, are subject to federal anti-money laundering laws. And, all banks must have access to the federal payment system to operate, which is under the purview of federal authority. Thus, banking entities related to the cannabis business can pose significant regulatory sanction risk, loss of access to the payments system, and the potential loss of the bank charter itself. This places banks in an untenable position in dealing with these state-authorized businesses.

Currently, the only direction available to financial institutions in connection with cannabis-related accounts comes from guidance issued by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) in 2014. That guidance, which references a now rescinded memorandum from the U.S. Department of Justice (the "Cole Memo"), describes how financial institutions can report cannabis-related business activity consistent with their Bank Secrecy Act obligations. It does not create a safe harbor or otherwise modify federal law to protect banks from criminal and civil liability for money laundering. It merely creates a system for reporting activity that is illegal under federal law but otherwise legal under state law.

Although some financial institutions have weighed the prevailing climate of non-enforcement and have decided to shoulder the risk in order to serve the needs of their communities, the majority of financial institutions will not take the legal, regulatory, or reputational risk associated with banking cannabis-related businesses without congressional action. As a result, state-legal businesses are being excluded from the mainstream financial system.

The problems, though, are not limited to those businesses that have direct contact with the marijuana plant, such as growers and dispensaries. The impact of the divide between state and federal law extends to any person or business that derives revenue from a cannabis firm—including real estate owners, security firms, utilities, vendors and employees of cannabis businesses, as well as investors. As the legal state-cannabis industry continues to grow, the indirect connections to cannabis revenues will also continue to expand. Without greater clarity, that entire portion of economic activity in legal cannabis states will continue to be marginalized from the banking system.

The bipartisan SAFE Banking Act would be an important step toward enabling financial services for cannabis-related businesses. The bill specifies that proceeds from a legitimate cannabis business would not be considered unlawful under federal money laundering statutes or any other federal law, which is necessary to allow the provision of financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses as well as any ancillary businesses that derive some portion of their income from those businesses. The bill would

also direct FinCEN, and the federal banking regulators through the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, to issue guidance and exam procedures for banks doing business with cannabis-related legitimate businesses. Explicit, consistent direction from federal financial regulators will provide needed clarity for banks and help them better evaluate the risks and supervisory expectations for cannabis-related customers. The SAFE Banking Act is not a cure all for the cannabis banking challenge, but it is a measure that helps clarify many issues for the banking industry and regulators.

ABA is pleased to support the SAFE Banking Act and urges members of the House of Representatives to vote in favor of this legislation when it is brought up on this week's suspension calendar.

Sincerely,

ROB NICHOLS.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.

U.S. Rep. PERLMUTTER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. PERLMUTTER: I write today on behalf of the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) in strong support of H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (SAFE Banking Act) of 2021.

ACIL is an association representing independent commercial scientific and engineering firms with over 1,000 facilities across the U.S. engaged in testing, product certification, consulting, and research and development to enhance public health and safety.

This bipartisan legislation would provide safe harbor to financial institutions doing business with the state-legal cannabis industry. Since 1996, 47 states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized some form of recreational or medical marijuana, including hemp and CBD products. However, cannabis remains illegal under the federal Controlled Substances Act, individuals who grow, possess, use, sell, transport, or distribute cannabis remain subject to federal criminal prosecution. Your legislation seeks to harmonize federal and state law by prohibiting federal regulators from taking punitive measures against depository institutions that provide banking services to legitimate cannabis-related businesses engaged in manufacturing, growing, or producing, as well as any business who handles, sells, transports, displays or distributes cannabis or cannabis products.

ACIL does not take a position on the legalization of cannabis, but our membership find themselves in a quandary due to the conflict between state and federal law.

Based upon the above, ACIL is pleased to support your SAFE Banking Act and we look forward to its passage in the U.S. Congress. Thank you for your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BRIGHT,
Chief Operating Officer.

APRIL 1, 2021

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.
Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JAMES E. CLYBURN,
Majority Whip,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN THUNE,
Minority Whip,
Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK J. TOOMEY,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Bank-
ing, Housing, & Urban Affairs, Washington,
DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Minority Whip,
Washington, DC.
Hon. RICHARD J. DURBIN,
Majority Whip,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SHERROD BROWN,
Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
& Urban Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS: We are a bipartisan group of state and territorial attorneys general committed to public safety, financial transparency, and the rule of law. On May 8, 2019, 38 state and territorial attorneys general urged passage of the Safe and Fair Enforcement ("SAFE") Banking Act, or similar legislation, providing access to the regulated banking system for marijuana-related businesses in states with robust regulatory controls that ensure accountability in the marijuana industry. The undersigned attorneys general reiterate that support here and encourage Congress to take action expeditiously.

During the November 2020 election, voters in multiple states approved ballot measures to regulate cannabis for medical and/or adult use. Currently, forty-seven states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories have legalized some form of recreational or medical cannabis use (including CBD/low THC). In short, it is clear that legalized cannabis is here to stay.

In forty-seven states, the District of Columbia, and four territories, cannabis is regulated through responsible and robust regulatory programs. Nonetheless, federal law currently inhibits the ability of national financial institutions to provide banking and other financial services to cannabis-related businesses operating lawfully under state regulations. Without access to traditional financial services, these businesses operate exclusively or primarily in cash, making those businesses targets for criminal activity and hindering efforts to ensure regulatory and tax compliance and track financial flows. This status quo—a rapidly expanding, multi-billion-dollar national marketplace without access to the national banking systems—is untenable.

As we noted in our May 2019 letter to the congressional leadership, passage of the SAFE Banking Act or similar legislation, in no way constitutes an endorsement of any state or territory's specific approach to the legalization of marijuana-related transactions, and the Act is in no way an endorsement for the legalization of medical or retail marijuana in those jurisdictions that choose not to pursue such an approach. But regardless of how individual policymakers feel about states permitting the use of medical or recreational marijuana, the reality of the situation requires federal rules that permit a sensible banking regime for legal businesses."

We further emphasized that passage of this legislation "reflects a recognition of the re-

alities on the ground and an embrace of our federalist system of government that is flexible enough to accommodate divergent state approaches."

To address an untenable status quo and recognize on the ground realities, we strongly urge the House of Representatives and Senate to promptly take up and act upon the SAFE Banking Act. Our states' ability to protect public safety and properly regulate this new and growing industry depends on Congress enacting this vital legislation.

Respectfully,

PHIL WEISER,
Colorado Attorney General.
WAYNE STENEHJEM,
North Dakota Attorney General.
KARL A. RACINE,
District of Columbia Attorney General.
DAVE YOST,
Ohio Attorney General.

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION,
BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.
Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
Member of Congress,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER, VELÁZQUEZ, STIVERS AND DAVIDSON: On behalf of the American Bankers Association (ABA), I am writing to express our support for the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act (SAFE Banking Act) of 2021. We would like to thank you for your efforts to address the conflict between federal and state law and whether banks can serve cannabis and cannabis related businesses. This issue has become a challenge for so many of our nation's communities and the banks that serve them.

Since 1996, voters across the country have determined that it is appropriate to allow their citizens to use cannabis for medical purposes and, since 2012, for adult use. Currently, 36 states have legalized cannabis for medical or adult use and that number continues to grow. Nevertheless, current federal law prevents banks from safely banking cannabis businesses, as well as the ancillary businesses that provide them with goods and services.

As a result, a majority of states are struggling to address the significant challenges to public safety, as well as regulatory and tax compliance that go hand-in-hand with businesses forced to operate in an all-cash environment. Providing a mechanism for the cannabis industry to access the banking system would help those communities reduce cash-motivated crimes, increase the efficiency of tax collections, and improve the financial transparency of the cannabis industry. Since bank accounts are monitored in accordance with existing anti-money laundering and Bank Secrecy Act requirements, bringing cannabis-related legitimate businesses into the mainstream banking sector would also help law enforcement to identify suspicious transactions—an opportunity that is not available in an all-cash environment.

ABA does not take a position on the legalization of cannabis. Nevertheless, our member banks find themselves in a difficult situation due to the conflict between state and federal law, with local communities encouraging them to bank cannabis businesses and federal law prohibiting it. Congress must act to resolve this conflict between state and federal law.

The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §801 et seq.) classifies cannabis as an illegal drug and prohibits its use for any purpose. For banks, that means that all proceeds generated by a cannabis-related business, even when it is operating in compliance with state law, are unlawful proceeds under federal law, and so any attempt to conduct a financial transaction with that money (including simply accepting a deposit) can be considered money-laundering. All banks, whether state or federally chartered, are subject to federal anti-money laundering laws. And, all banks must have access to the federal payment system to operate, which is under the purview of federal authority. Thus, banking entities related to the cannabis business can pose significant regulatory sanction risk, loss of access to the payments system, and the potential loss of the bank charter itself. This places banks in an untenable position in dealing with these state-authorized businesses.

Currently, the only direction available to financial institutions in connection with cannabis-related accounts comes from guidance issued by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) in 2014. That guidance, which references a now rescinded memorandum from the U.S. Department of Justice (the "Cole Memo"), describes how financial institutions can report cannabis-related business activity consistent with their Bank Secrecy Act obligations. It does not create a safe harbor or otherwise modify federal law to protect banks from criminal and civil liability for money laundering. It merely creates a system for reporting activity that is illegal under federal law but otherwise legal under state law.

Although some financial institutions have weighed the prevailing climate of non-enforcement and have decided to shoulder the risk in order to serve the needs of their communities, the majority of financial institutions will not take the legal, regulatory, or reputational risk associated with banking cannabis-related businesses without congressional action. As a result, state-legal businesses are being excluded from the mainstream financial system.

The problems, though, are not limited to those businesses that have direct contact with the marijuana plant, such as growers and dispensaries. The impact of the divide between state and federal law extends to any person or business that derives revenue from a cannabis firm—including real estate owners, security firms, utilities, vendors and employees of cannabis businesses, as well as investors. As the legal state-cannabis industry continues to grow, the indirect connections to cannabis revenues will also continue to expand. Without greater clarity, that entire portion of economic activity in legal cannabis states will continue to be marginalized from the banking system.

The bipartisan SAFE Banking Act would be an important step toward enabling financial services for cannabis-related businesses. The bill specifies that proceeds from a legitimate cannabis business would not be considered unlawful under federal money laundering statutes or any other federal law, which is necessary to allow the provision of financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses as well as any ancillary businesses that derive some portion of their income from those businesses. The bill would also direct FinCEN, and the federal banking regulators through the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, to issue

guidance and exam procedures for banks doing business with cannabis-related legitimate businesses. Explicit, consistent direction from federal financial regulators will provide needed clarity for banks and help them better evaluate the risks and supervisory expectations for cannabis-related customers. The SAFE Banking Act is not a cure all for the cannabis banking challenge, but it is a measure that helps clarify many issues for the banking industry and regulators.

ABA is pleased to support the SAFE Banking Act and urges the House Financial Services Committee to approve this legislation and for the full House of Representatives to quickly consider this important measure.

Sincerely,

ROB NICHOLS.

AMERICAN FINANCIAL
SERVICES ASSOCIATION,
March 16, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: The American Financial Services Association (AFSA) writes to express its strong support for the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021.

The SAFE Banking Act, sponsored by Representatives Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Warren Davidson (R-OH), had strong bipartisan support in the 116th Congress with 206 cosponsors, and passed the House 321-103. This legislation includes an important provision ending Operation Choke Point. Specifically, it prohibits a federal banking agency from ordering a bank to terminate a banking relationship with a legal business unless there is a valid reason that is not based solely on reputational risk.

The ostensible intent of Choke Point program was to prevent criminal fraud. However, in actuality, federal officials pressured banks to close accounts of businesses operating within state and federal law without legal recourse or due process solely because the officials were ideologically opposed to the businesses' existence. Under Operation Choke Point, businesses that were operating legally suddenly found banks terminating their accounts, in some cases accounts that the business had had for years, without explanation. While the program was targeted at gun dealers and payday lenders, other businesses, such as installment lenders, were also affected. No legal business should be targeted solely based on the political bias of a particular administration.

Even after Operation Choke Point officially ended, its effects remained. Financial services companies that are licensed and regulated still had their accounts closed with very little explanation. Legitimate bank customers, like traditional installment lenders, which have provided safe and affordable small-dollar credit to consumers in their communities for over a century, deserve fair access and fair treatment by federal banking agencies.

Limiting the availability of lawful goods and services to consumers in an attempt to punish politically disfavored businesses harms consumers and sets a bad precedent. Government initiatives must be carried out on solid legal ground, not political bias. We urge members of the House of Representatives to support the SAFE Banking Act.

Sincerely,

CELIA WINSLOW,
Senior Vice President,
American Financial Services Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present for one of the votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 123.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. WARREN DAVIDSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

ARIZONA DISPENSARIES ASSOCIATION,
17 March 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: The Arizona Dispensaries Association would like to thank you for your leadership as you move forward with the reintroduction of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act. With an eye to economics and public safety, we consider this legislation to be essential to the businesses we represent.

Cannabis businesses transact solely in cash, amounting to billions of dollars in cash transactions each year, which poses significant public safety concerns. The Arizona cannabis program alone, which is the fourth top cannabis paradigm within the United States, garnered over \$1 billion in sales in 2020. Within the first ten days of recreational cannabis sales, Arizona businesses garnered at least \$2.9 million. With over \$1 billion in sales in 2020, received almost exclusively in cash payments, and an expanding recreational cannabis market, Arizona businesses must then use this cash to pay employees and taxes. Arizona cannabis businesses paid \$500,000 in excise taxes from the \$2.9 million earned from those first ten days of recreational operations in January. With an influx of cash to cannabis operators, obtained in an extremely short period of time, businesses can face difficulty in transporting taxation payments to local tax offices. This example underscores the immense challenges cannabis operators undergo due to cash only transactions.

The reliance on cash transactions causes reason for safety concerns of not only industry employees, but also the communities which they serve. As cannabis businesses operate using cash transactions, it is necessary to keep large amounts of cash on the premises. Aware of this fact, criminal actors targeted cannabis businesses for burglaries across the country in the spring of 2020. Members of the Arizona Dispensaries Association were targeted for these break-ins, resulting in significant financial losses not only due to theft, but also as a result of the accompanying property damage. SAFE Banking would enhance the safety of industry employees and the communities in which cannabis businesses operate by allowing businesses to drastically reduce the amount of cash on hand, lessening the chances of

cannabis businesses being targeted for this type of criminal activity. Additionally, with the ability to process payments electronically, there is a more detailed and accurate accounting of business activity, increasing the potential for increased tax revenue over the long term.

Nationwide, the cannabis industry's four-year job growth rate is an astounding 161%. The Arizona cannabis industry alone employs 20,000 individuals, with over 5,000 of those opportunities being created within 2020, which is especially noteworthy considering the far-reaching impacts of the COVID pandemic. As the SAFE Banking Act creates a safe harbor for financial institutions to bank the proceeds of state-legal cannabis businesses, its enactment is critical not only for Arizona's cannabis industry to continue to grow at an exponential rate, but to also contribute to the State of Arizona's economic recovery during the aftershocks of the pandemic.

SAFE Banking addresses many concerns ranging from economic viability to public safety, not only with bipartisan support, but with a neutral impact on the budget. Arizona Dispensaries association is prepared to work together to advance this legislation into law in the 117th Congress.

Best regards,

SAM RICHARD,
Executive Director,
Arizona Dispensaries Association.

ABIR,
April 19, 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: I am writing on behalf of the Association of Bermuda Insurers and Reinsurers (ABIR), which represents the public policy interests of Bermuda's leading insurers and reinsurers and make up over 35% of the global reinsurance market based on property & casualty net premiums earned. ABIR members employ over 43,000 Americans in the U.S. and protect consumers around the world by providing affordable and accessible insurance protection and peace of mind.

ABIR writes in support of H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act, and to thank you for your leadership on this issue.

As you know, the current lack of harmonization between federal and state laws on cannabis banking deeply affects insurers and reinsurers. We support Congress addressing this important issue for all financial services providers and specifically and applaud the inclusion of insurance and other financial products or services insurers in the SAFE Banking Act.

Similar to other financial services providers, insurers are being forced to restrict providing insurance and other financial products or services to people working in state-legal cannabis jobs simply due to the source of their paycheck. The SAFE Banking Act would allow the financial services industry to serve the cannabis industry and will result in greater transparency for the state-legal operators.

Thank you for your leadership on this narrowly tailored yet profoundly important issue, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues as legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. HUFF,
President & CEO.

CANNABIZIL,

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: The Cannabis Business Association of Illinois (CBAI)

would like to thank you for your reintroduction of the Secure and Fair Enforcement or SAFE Banking Act. We again are in full support of this measure.

In June of 2019, Illinois signed into law groundbreaking cannabis social equity standards to ensure the diversity and inclusion of minority operators within the newly legalized adult use cannabis industry. These standards have quickly become the national template for other states seeking to develop social equity programs tied to their cannabis legalization efforts.

Illinois' social equity applicants have been significantly hindered due to their limited access to private capital and more practically to traditional financial services where they certainly could obtain loans and lines of credit to help offset startup costs and secure real estate. The SAFE Banking Act would not only resolve these financial challenges but also help to bolster the success factor for many of these social equity applicants.

The SAFE Banking Act would also be a great boon to the existing Illinois cannabis industry; their employees, their communities, their customers and of greater importance their patients. The Illinois cannabis industry garnered over \$1 billion in cannabis sales in 2020, a sum of money that is difficult to manage without access to traditional banking services. This lack of access to normal banking services, available to every other legal operating business in Illinois, is unfair and inequitable. The attack on ATM machines located in every Illinois dispensary during the Chicago August mass looting is a perfect example of the industry's vulnerability because of cash insistent transactions. Several of our association's members were targeted several times and sustained massive physical damage as well as product theft.

Even Illinois' Treasurer, Michael Frerichs, is a staunch supporter of the SAFE Banking Act's passage. He has gone on record stating the need to provide normal financial banking services to the cannabis industry creating more transparency and accountability within this nascent industry. Allowing electronic payments between businesses promotes a healthier, safer economy. Currently financial institutions prohibit these transactions inhibiting everything from interstate specialty equipment purchases to software maintenance contracts even association dues payments!

CBAI would like to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the industry. This is a very important piece of legislation and we are grateful for your leadership in putting together a bipartisan advocacy team. If our statewide association can help in moving this legislation forward, please let us know.

Regards,

PAMELA J. ALTHOFF,
CBAI Executive Director.

CALIFORNIA CANNABIS
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
March 17, 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES, PERLMUTTER, STIVERS, VELÁZQUEZ, AND DAVIDSON: It is with great enthusiasm that we support the reintroduction of the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2021 ("SAFE Banking"). The California Cannabis Industry Association ("CCIA") is the largest and most influential trade association in the state of

California representing the diverse interests of the cannabis industry: retail, cultivation, manufacturing, delivery, distribution, testing, insurance, packaging, and various ancillary services. Our unified voice includes 500 businesses and represents nearly 15,000 employees across the state. SAFE Banking is not only critical to the economic success in our industry, but it is also imperative in improving public safety and making the cannabis industry more equitable.

I. SAFE BANKING CREATES OPPORTUNITY FOR BIPOC INDIVIDUALS

While cannabis is one of the fastest growing sectors in the United States, BIPOC individuals (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) have struggled to participate due to systematic economic racism and lack of access to capital. While some cities such as Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles have developed social equity programs with varying degrees of success, without access to capital, licenses obtained under these frameworks continue to be associated with high costs. Unfortunately, even in states like California that have equity programs written into their cannabis statutes, BIPOC owners fall prey to predatory business arrangements where a larger cannabis company will be effectively running the businesses through a management services agreement while the minority owner becomes a figurehead.

SAFE Banking would allow more banks, including community banks, to participate with the cannabis industry providing more opportunities for potential business owners. Additionally, SAFE Banking would make traditional financial instruments—like lines of credit—available to small operators. That capital is often the difference between success or failure for a small business. Currently, most cannabis businesses are funded through private generational wealth or investment, areas in which BIPOC individuals lag when compared to their white peers. Every year women of color get less than 1% of total venture capital funding. Further, data from 2019 indicates that only 200 Latino and Black individuals nationwide, in all industries, were able to raise over \$1 million in venture capital, making cannabis ownership all but unobtainable when start-up, operations costs, and licensing fees are considered.

While SAFE Banking would not resolve the issues of systematic economic racism, the opportunity for BIPOC individuals to establish relationships with traditional lenders is a critical step in mitigating the damage done by the War on Drugs.

II. SAFE BANKING IMPROVES PUBLIC SAFETY

During the summer of 2020, over three dozen cannabis businesses in California were the target of robberies and break-ins, adding to a long string of targeted criminal activity in the state. Cannabis businesses known to have cash on hand become easy targets for petty and organized criminals. In most cases from last summer, professional burglars were caught on security footage stealing cash registers, safes, and ATMs. The looting and robberies were so problematic that California's Bureau of Cannabis Control, the state's top regulator for cannabis activity, removed all cannabis business addresses from their website.

Without question, an act of vandalism is distressing to any business, but cannabis businesses are faced with unique challenges due to lack of access to traditional financial services. Due to closures of local offices of the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) because of CO VI D-19, many cannabis businesses who regularly visited these offices to pay their excise taxes in cash, were sitting on excise tax payments, waiting until the local branches to

reopen. These excise tax payments were looted along with other cash and inventory.

The reduction of cash on site at cannabis businesses will help reduce the chances of robberies but could also improve public health. Like many other states, over the course of the last year California designated cannabis businesses as essential and our operations saw many come into our businesses to buy medicinal and adult use cannabis. However, all cash transactions require significantly more face-to-face interaction than other types of payment systems and ran contrary to a Centers for Disease Control recommendation to limit cash sales.

III. SAFE BANKING IS A JOB CREATOR

California has the largest cannabis economy not only in the United States, but also in the world. The state legal industry employed a massive 57,970 individuals in 2020 and generated over \$3.4 billion dollars in sales. Of the nearly 60,000 individuals employed by the cannabis industry, over 23,000 of those jobs were added during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SAFE Banking could increase economic growth by ensuring that cannabis business could conduct regular payroll and deposit money into banks that could turn those deposits into outward facing loans. Access to traditional financial services would allow these businesses to hire more workers and open more facilities.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the safety of our employees and our communities we urge quick action on this critical piece of legislation. Removing federal law barriers to banking services for state-legal cannabis businesses, would catalyze economic growth in our state and around the country. Banking reform is essential to the diversity and growth of the cannabis industry. CCIA is proud to support this bipartisan bill and looks forward to supporting the efforts to passage.

Sincerely,

LINDSAY ROBINSON,
Executive Director,
California Cannabis Industry Association.

COLORADO BANKERS ASSOCIATION.

REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: The Colorado Bankers Association is proud to again endorse the SAFE Banking Act to allow state-legal cannabis businesses access to banking services. We have supported this in previous years. CBA represents over 95% of the banking industry in Colorado and we support the bill to get cash off the streets and make our communities safer.

Banking operations are greatly complicated by the conflict of state and federal law on cannabis. That creates substantial problems for handling cannabis deposits which range from cash handling and security to major compliance issues with FinCEN requirements for Suspicious Activity Reports required by the Bank Secrecy Act/Anti Money Laundering laws. For local banks that usually results in a bank not knowingly handling cannabis related accounts. For regional and nationwide banks that almost always results in not banking cannabis accounts. Lending issues are more complicated.

Due to widespread legalization of some form of recreational or medical marijuana, including CBD oil, today 97.7% of the population in the U.S. lives in cannabis friendly jurisdictions. We very much believe it is up to each state and its voters to decide how to proceed with marijuana laws, but there is a clear need to align federal and state laws addressing the related banking problems.

The state/federal conflict of laws creates restrictions on banks for accepting cannabis related deposits. This poses a serious public

safety risk and is our primary reason for advocating the SAFE Banking Act. Additionally, financial institutions that provide banking services to state-legal marijuana businesses are currently subject to criminal prosecution for “aiding and abetting” a federal crime and money laundering allegations due to the Controlled Substances Act. Banking services such as accepting credit card payments, depositing revenues, and writing checks to pay employees, vendors and taxes are needed by licensed and regulated cannabis businesses that are now cut off from such banking services.

The SAFE Banking Act creates the ability to access the banking system and make our communities safer. The bill removes violations of money laundering laws for any proceeds derived from state-legal marijuana businesses. The result is to get cash off the streets and into the financial system which is built to identify and block or report fraud and illicit activity. This bill also contains needed protections for hemp and hemp-derived CBD related businesses, which still struggle in accessing financial services despite the legalization of hemp in the 2018 Farm Bill.

The Colorado Bankers Association is pleased to support this needed change in federal law. Please contact us with any questions.

DON A. CHILDEARS,
Chief Executive Officer,
Colorado Bankers Association.

CUNA,
March 18, 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER, STIVERS, VELÁZQUEZ, AND DAVIDSON: On behalf of America's credit unions, I am writing in support of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021, which would permit credit unions in states where marijuana is legal to safely serve their members' related needs. The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) represents America's credit unions and their more than 120 million members.

Credit unions exist to serve the financial services needs of their members, but the disparate treatment of production, distribution, sale and use of cannabis under federal law and some state laws has discouraged them from providing services to businesses throughout the supply chain in states where cannabis is legal. In recent years, as various states have legalized cannabis for medicinal and recreational use, participants in the market have sought out credit unions to provide safe and affordable financial services. In recent years, 36 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have approved medical marijuana and cannabis programs.

CUNA takes no position on legalizing or decriminalizing medicinal or recreational cannabis at either the state or federal level. However, credit unions operating in states where it is legal have members and member businesses involved in the cannabis market who need access to traditional depository and lending services, the absence of which creates a significant public safety issue. A 2015 analysis found that, in the absence of being banked, one in every two cannabis

dispensaries were robbed or burglarized—with the average thief walking away with anywhere from \$20,000 to \$50,000 in a single theft.

Additionally, even financial institutions that choose not to bank the cannabis industry still risk unknowingly serving those businesses in states where cannabis is legal. Indirect connections are often difficult to identify and avoid because like any other industry, those offering cannabis-related services work with vendors and suppliers. These are Main Street businesses like the printing company that makes a business card, the landlord that rents office space, and even the utility company that provides water or electricity. Under the existing status quo, a credit union that does business with any one of these indirectly affiliated entities could unknowingly risk violating federal law.

The SAFE Banking Act of 2021 would offer narrowly targeted federal protections for credit unions and other financial institutions accepting deposits, extending credit, or providing payment services to an individual or business engaged in cannabis related commerce in states where such activity is legal with a safe harbor, so long as they are compliant with all other applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, the SAFE Banking Act provides safe harbor to credit unions and their employees who are not aware if their members or customers are involved in this business.

Many credit unions operate in states where their voters or legislatures have made cannabis legal in one form or another. Therefore, CUNA believes that financial institutions should be permitted to lawfully serve businesses that engage in activities authorized under their state laws, even when such activity may be inconsistent with federal law.

For that reason, CUNA has long supported the SAFE Banking Act and we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation into law. On behalf of America's credit unions, thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

JIM NUSSLE,
President & CEO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, due to a personal matter, I could not make votes on Thursday, April 15th, and Friday, April 16th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 109; YEA on Roll Call No. 110; YEA on Roll Call No. 111; YEA on Roll Call No. 112; YEA on Roll Call No. 113; YEA on Roll Call No. 114; YEA on Roll Call No. 115; YEA on Roll Call No. 116; YEA on Roll Call No. 117; NAY on Roll Call No. 118; and YEA on Roll Call No. 119.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RICHARD ERICKSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Richard Erickson, who

passed away on February 21, 2021. He was a true servant to his family, community, and country and he will be deeply missed.

“Dick” Erickson was born on March 8, 1952 to Leslie and Alida Erickson in Preston, Minnesota. He attended Elementary School at Highland Country School, and at the age of 12 he left home to work for a local farmer. He later attended high school in Lanesboro, Minnesota. At age 17, Dick enlisted in the United States Navy. He served in the Vietnam War aboard the USS Newport News.

After returning, Dick began his 38 year career in law enforcement. He attended the Rio Hondo Police Academy in Whittier, California before joining the police force in Tupelo, Mississippi. He worked as an undercover narcotics officer and became a K-9 officer where he met his new partner, a German Shepard named Akky. The pair served together as Dick headed up the Tupelo Drug Task Force. Dick ended his career as the Chief of Police in Mantachie, MS. As a Mississippian, Dick served in the Army and Mississippi National Guard. In his 8 year career, he earned his combat medic's license and the rank of E6.

Mr. Erickson is survived by his mother, Alida; brother, Larry; sister Mary Brown; nine children; and thirteen grandchildren.

Dick Erickson was a dedicated community servant and a beloved father, brother, and leader. I am grateful for his service to state and country and join countless others in mourning his loss.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF COLONEL CHRIS A. MCKINNEY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Chris A. McKinney, the outgoing Commander of the 177 Military Police Brigade. A key figure in protecting our Capitol, his service to our community and to our nation are worthy of commendation.

Colonel McKinney's military and federal civilian service spans over three decades. He began his service as a Second Lieutenant and was selected for the Corps of Engineers in 1993. He served as an Engineer Platoon Leader, and as Executive Officer and Company Commander for C Co. 1/151st Infantry. He also served assignments in Aviation, the Judge Advocate General Corps and the Military Police Corps, as well as in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security. Deployed in combat to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom and to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as a member of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force. Colonel McKinney has earned numerous awards and decorations for his service across the country and globe, including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal.

During Colonel McKinney's tenure he led the Tiger Brigade in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included setting up acute care facilities and leading testing programs in Michigan's prisons and long-term care facilities. Colonel McKinney and his team responded to the historic Midland Flooding, conducted the first ever MI Quick Reaction

Force, and led planning and preparation for hurricane response to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

An instrumental figure in protecting our nation's capital, Colonel McKinney led two task forces during the Presidential Inauguration and Operational Capitol Response II. We are eternally grateful for Colonel McKinney's leadership and the Michigan National Guard and their role in defending our Capitol and every person who works here.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Chris A. McKinney for his lifetime of invaluable service to this Nation. I join with Colonel McKinney's family—including his wife of thirty years, Terri, and his children Kate and Ryan—friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his exemplary and honorable service to this country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEAST OF SAINT SEBASTIAN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Saint Sebastian Church, its membership and the community of Middletown, Connecticut as they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Feast of Saint Sebastian—a celebration of ethnic pride and culture that has grown to become a treasured community tradition.

The first immigrants from Melilli, Sicily arrived in the City of Middletown in 1895. Over the course of the next several decades, the number of Melillesi who came to call Middletown home grew exponentially, forming a tight-knit community in the City's North End. As the Melillesi families grew so did their desire to celebrate their rich history and tradition. Like in so many other Italian-American communities, they did so through the annual religious celebrations of the patron saint of their hometown, Saint Sebastian. This small neighborhood celebration has since grown into one of the City's most well-known and popular annual traditions.

By 1921, the annual Feast of Saint Sebastian had become a major event in the Sicilian community, attracting participants not only from Middletown but surrounding towns as well. It was in 1921 that the first official feast committee was formed and when the first statue of Saint Sebastian, a gift designed and sculpted by local laborer Sebastiano Marchese, was presented to the community. It was also from this first major Feast and its collection of funds, that the first steps toward the creation of the Saint Sebastian Church and Parish were taken. Just over a decade later, after approval from the diocese and the purchase of properties for the church and rectory, the cornerstone was placed and construction of Saint Sebastian Church was completed within a year. Today, Saint Sebastian Church, which almost mirrors its companion of the same name in Melilli, continues to be the heartbeat of Middletown's Italian-American community, and the Feast remains an annual tradition that the whole City looks forward to celebrating.

The Feast of Saint Sebastian, whose festivities now span three days, is a celebration of

the Melillesi culture. Booths provide food and drink, games and carnival rides entertain adults and children, and the main stage provides musical entertainment where many gather to sing and dance. Special masses are held and upon entering the Church one can view the statue of Saint Sebastian, often hearing chants of "Santo Sebastiano" as those gathered pray to the patron saint. And on the Sunday of the Feast, hundreds dressed all in white with red sashes attend the "I Nuri" running—the procession of Saint Sebastian. It is a remarkable sight to behold.

People across the country struggle to create a sense of community—a sense of belonging. Over the course of its one-hundred-year history, the Feast of Saint Sebastian has helped the families of Middletown's Melillesi immigrants and their descendants do just that. This year, as they mark its centennial anniversary, I am proud to stand and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of those, past and present, who have made the Feast of Saint Sebastian such a special celebration. The bonds of community that the Feast has helped to shape will continue to impact generations to come.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JUANA SEQUEIRA SOLIS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Juana Sequeira Solis who passed away on April 6, 2021 at the age of 94. She was born in 1926 in Nicaragua and was the eldest of five children.

In 1945, at the age of 18, she immigrated to the United States in search of a better life. In 1950, she moved to Los Angeles where she met her late husband, Raul S. Solis, while taking citizenship classes. The couple then married in October of 1953.

Mrs. Solis and her late husband raised seven children in the unincorporated area of La Puente, California.

She enjoyed cooking for her family and friends and was an avid gardener. The family was her focal point where she taught her children to give back to their community; stressed the importance of achieving a higher education; and preserving the environment.

Mrs. Solis was a devout Roman Catholic.

Mrs. Solis worked hard to provide for her children and was employed for over 20 years as an assembly line worker at Mattel Inc. until her retirement in 1991. She was an active union member with the United Rubber Workers.

Mrs. Solis is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 58 years, Raul S. Solis, who was a proud Teamster and her beloved daughter, Beatriz M. Solis, who served as the Director for Healthy Communities at the California Endowment.

She is survived by her children: Irma Rincon, Raul Solis, Jr., Hilda Solis, Victor Solis, Anna Solis, Leticia Solis and their spouses; 10 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

She will be remembered for her kindness and fighting spirit. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Madam Speaker, I ask that Members in the House Chamber please join me for a moment of silence to honor the life of Juana Sequeira Solis.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense's management challenges and opportunities.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine the Missile Defense Agency, focusing on a program update.

SVC-217

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security

To hold hearings to examine curbing COVID cons, focusing on warning consumers about pandemic frauds, scams, and swindles.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine energy development on federal lands, focusing on the current status of the Department of the Interior's onshore oil and gas leasing program.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine climate challenges, focusing on the tax code's role in creating American jobs, achieving energy independence, and providing consumers with affordable, clean energy.

WEBEX

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine supporting children, workers and families by strengthening America's child care sector.

SH-216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight
To hold hearings to examine controlling Federal legacy IT costs and crafting 21st century IT management solutions.
SD-342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law
To hold hearings to examine how social media platforms' design choices shape our discourse and our minds, focusing on algorithms and amplification.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports
To hold hearings to examine the future of automotive mobility, safety, and technology.
SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety
To hold hearings to examine S. 283, to establish a National Climate Bank.
SD-406

Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth
To hold hearings to examine creating opportunity through a fairer tax system.
SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Policy on Afghanistan.
SD-G50

3 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights
To hold hearings to examine Supreme Court fact-finding and the distortion of American democracy.
SD-226

APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton George Hajjar, of Maryland, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, and Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.
SD-342

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine health disparities in Indian Country, focusing on a review of the Indian Health Service's COVID response and future needs.
SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 15, to require the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors, S. 115, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, S. 120, to prevent and respond to the misuse of communications services that facilitates

domestic violence and other crimes, S. 163, to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, S. 198, to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps, S. 316, to establish a temperature checks pilot program for air transportation, S. 326, to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment and adoption on the economy of the United States, S. 381, to establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, S. 558, to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, S. 576, to amend title 14, United States Code, to require the Coast Guard to conduct icebreaking operations in the Great Lakes to minimize commercial disruption in the winter months, S. 593, to restrict the imposition by the Secretary of Homeland Security of fines, penalties, duties, or tariffs applicable only to coastwise voyages, or prohibit otherwise qualified non-United States citizens from serving as crew, on specified vessels transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska, to address a Canadian cruise ship ban and the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alaskan communities, S. 735, to amend the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 to further support advanced technological manufacturing, S. 1106, to prohibit the sale of shark fins, S. 1259, to provide that crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, an original bill relating to marine mammals, and the nominations of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, and Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SR-301

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, and other pending nominations.
SD-106/VTC

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the response to COVID-19, focusing on using lessons learned to address mental health and substance use disorders.
SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD-G50

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.
SD-124

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Library of Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Government Accountability Office.
SD-192

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command's efforts to sustain the readiness of special operations forces and transform the force for future security challenges.
SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine defense acquisition programs and acquisition reform.
SR-222

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Government Operations and Border Management
To hold hearings to examine the non-governmental organization perspective on the southwest border.
VTC

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the COVID-19 response in Native communities, focusing on Native education systems one year later.
SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on the Constitution
To hold hearings to examine stopping gun violence, focusing on extreme risk order/"red flag" laws.
SD-226

3 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine the VA telehealth program, focusing on leveraging recent investments to build future capacity.
SD-138

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending calendar business.
SH-216

4:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine United States nuclear deterrence policy and strategy.
SD-562

APRIL 29

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric S. Lander, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
SR-253

April 21, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — *Extensions of Remarks*

E441

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

ka, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alas-

SD-366